SHRI N.K. SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the light of the recent statement by the hon. Chief Justice of India that the Collegium system needed major modifications in the selection process, is the hon. Minister contemplating any major significant changes in the process for making selection to the higher judiciary?

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a matter which is engaging the attention of the Parliamentarians in the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, and it is also being debated among the jurists. But the Government has not taken any view on this, and I will not be in a position to give a positive reply with regard to the next step to be taken in this sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Infrastructure projects running behind schedule

*243. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:
SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 50 per cent of the infrastructure projects are running behind schedule, resulting in an extra burden of Rs. 40,000 crores on the exchequer;

(b) whether 423 projects out of 925 projects, each costing 20 crores or more have failed to meet the deadline and majority of them are road and power projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for the delay and the steps taken by Government to complete these projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) As on 30.06.2009, out of 951 Central Sector projects costing Rs.20 crore and above on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation, 466 projects, which is about 49%, have been delayed with respect to their approved completion schedule. The cost overrun in these delayed projects is of the order of Rs. 37693 crore. Majority of these delayed projects are in Road Transport and Highways, Railways, Coal, Steel, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Power Sectors. The details of 466 delayed projects State-wise/Sector-wise are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 218 Annexure No. 7]

(d) The main reasons for delay in ongoing projects include: slow progress by contractors due to labour supply and financial problems, fund constraints, delay in land acquisition, delay in supply of equipment by indigenous and foreign suppliers, law and order problems, geological problems, inadequate infrastructure etc. The steps taken by the Government to complete the ongoing projects, *inter alia* include:

(i) adequate provision of funds for implementation;

(ii) in-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government;

(iii) follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearances, infrastructure facilities, ensuring law and order at project sites, etc.;

(iv) setting up on an Empowered Committee in the administrative Ministries for review and resolving problems of departmentally executed projects;

(v) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems;

(vi) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns; and

(vii) appointment of nodal officers for each projects with continuity of tenure.

Honorarium for Anganwadi Workers

†*244. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the honorarium to be paid to Anganwadi Workers had been increased by the previous UPA Government;

(b) if so, the quantum of increase and since when this amount is being paid to Anganwadi Workers;

(c) whether any complaints regarding irregularities have been received from any quarter; and

(d) if so, the nature thereof and the details of the redressal measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) The honorarium of Anganwadi Workers of Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) was enhanced by the Government by Rs.500/- per month over and above the last honorarium drawn by them which varied from Rs.938/- to Rs.1063/- per month. For Anganwadi Helpers of AWCs and Anganwadi Workers of Mini-AWCs, the honorarium was enhanced from Rs.500/- to Rs.750/- per month. The enhanced honorarium is payable w.e.f. 1.4.2008.

(c) and (d) All the State Governments including Government of Uttar Pradesh had been requested to ensure that arrears of enhanced honoraria are disbursed fully. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has confirmed that arrears of enhanced honoraria has been released by the State Government for disbursement. However, a complaint has recently been received from Mahila Anganwadi Karamchari Sangh. State Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that arrears of honorarium for 11 months w.e.f. 1.4.2008 would be disbursed to the Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers of Behraich District by 7.12.2009.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.